

Christmas in Washington

By Edward B. Clark

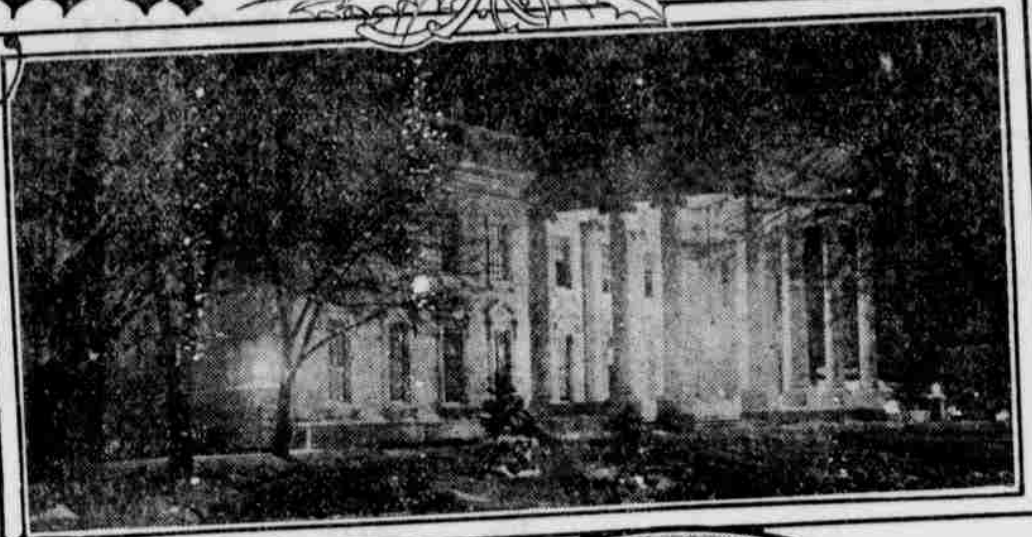


CHRISTMAS in Washington is not altogether like the northern holiday, even though there be snow on the Potomac hills and in the low lying valley of the river itself. Here on the sunny slope of the White House lawn dandelion and the heartsease are Christmas blossoms, while the hepatica not infrequently shows itself white and blue to the sun on the banks confining Rock Creek.

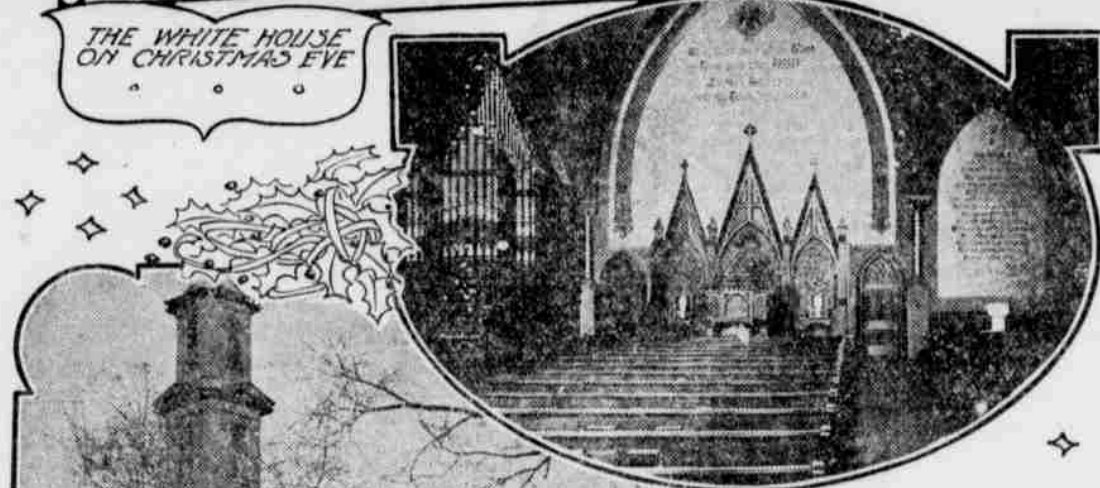
Christmas is a particularly genial season in Washington. There is enough of the southern atmosphere in the capital to make the holiday partake of the nature of the Christmas of the further south, for the natal day of Christ always has been given warm and exulting recognition in the country south of the Mason and Dixon line.

There are children in the White House at this holiday season as there were all through the administration of Mr. Taft's predecessor in office, Theodore Roosevelt. The president has three children at home with him to enjoy the holiday festivities in the House of State. It is true that of the three children one is just entering manhood and the other womanhood, while the third is just out of knickerbockers. Robert Taft, the president's oldest son, is home from college for the season's merrymaking, and his sister, Helen, is here also for the gayeties of the younger set. "Charlie" Taft has not outgrown the Christmas tree age and a Christmas tree he will have.

During the seven years of the Roosevelt administration, although there were five children in the White House, there was a Christmas tree only once. Mr. Roosevelt did not like the Christmas tree idea because he is a great believer in the conservation of the forests of the country, and he held that the Christmas tree trade worked havoc with the supply of evergreens. So it was that while Christmas in the White House during his term of office was all that the holiday otherwise should be, the children were not allowed a tree. The youngest Roosevelt boy, however, had Christmas tree views of his own and once he secured one, trimmed it in seclusion, and then hid it away in a closet where it was not discovered by his father, the president, until the Christmas season had pretty well waned.



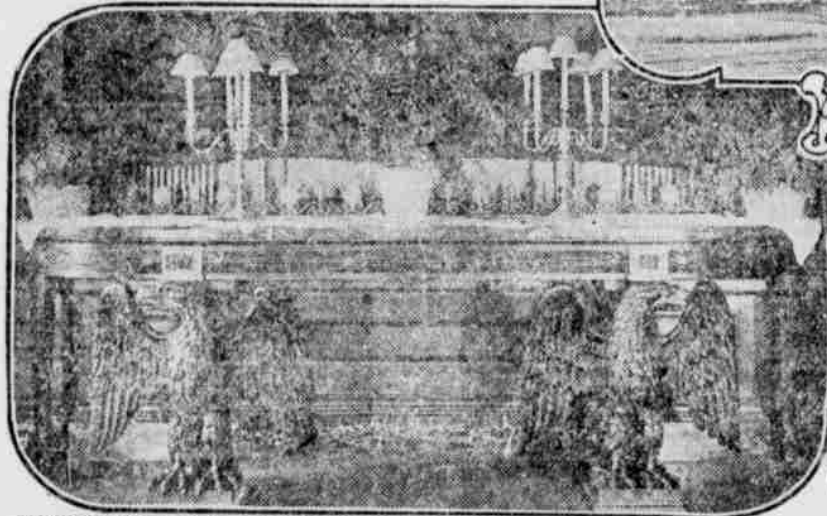
THE WHITE HOUSE ON CHRISTMAS EVE



INTERIOR OF PRESIDENT'S CHURCH



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH WHERE MRS. TAFT ATTENDS CHRISTMAS SERVICES



WHITE HOUSE SIDEBOARD FROM WHICH CHRISTMAS DINNER IS SERVED

A Christmas tree hereafter probably will be in evidence at the White House at every holiday. Mr. Taft need have no scruples on account of "forest devastation," because Gifford Pinchot, formerly chief forester of the government, has said that Christmas trees enough can be cut to supply the market demand without threatening the future supply. Mr. Pinchot believes in saving the trees, and he would not have issued this statement without proper study of the situation. He did not give out his edict, however, until the Roosevelt family had left the executive mansion, and while the former chief forester is one of Colonel Roosevelt's intimate friends, it is probable that the Roosevelt children think that the verdict of Mr. Pinchot on the tree question ought not to have been so long delayed.

They play golf all winter in Washington, and if perchance there is snow on the ground they play the game with red balls instead of the ordinary white ones, and so when President Taft plays his holiday games he will not stand in any danger of forfeiting a stroke because of the loss of a golf ball. A red ball is a conspicuous mark against a white background.

Every employee of the White House receives a big Christmas turkey as a gift from the president and his wife. Some of the White House household servants and some of the members of the office force have been in the employment of presidents through many administrations. Col. William H. Crook, who is the executive clerk, has been in the service ever since Grant's day and recently he has written his reminiscences of White House life under eight presidents. Since the early Civil war days there have been children in the White House under nearly every administration, but whether or not there were children of the president's own families to gather about the fire and the Christmas tree, young people always found their way into the White House circle to help their elders celebrate the holiday.

Christmas parties for young people are always the regular order of things in the White House during the holiday season. The children of the cabinet officials, of the army and navy officers, of senators and representatives and of the diplomats stationed here always are invited to a merry-making in the big east room.

Christmas is the great day in the household of the ambassadors and ministers from foreign countries and in the families of the juniors of the different embassies and legations. The representatives of southern European governments and of the countries of Central and South America make much of Christmas. Not an embassy or a legation in this town but keeps open house virtually during the entire holiday season. Gift giving among foreigners represented here is carried to an extreme at which even Americans, who give generously and are giving more generously and widely

each year, stand surprised. The Christmas receptions and parties given by the foreigners are not given as a rule on Christmas day. They recognize that the holiday proper is essentially a home day, the day when the family likes to "be a party unto itself." So it is that the affairs to which society and society's children are bidden usually take place between Christmas and New Year's, although in every particular they are Christmas gatherings.

For two weeks prior to the dawning of Christmas day the Washington markets are filled with holly and mistletoe. It is believed that before long the legislatures of Maryland and Virginia will be forced to pass laws protecting the beautiful holly tree from the hands of the despoiler. The demand for Christmas greens yearly kills hundreds if not thousands of holly trees. The trouble is that the men who cut the branches for the market use little or no discretion in securing their spoils. Holly branches can be cut without injury to the tree if the simplest precautions are taken, but in their greed to secure quantities of the beautiful boughs with their shining green leaves and polished red berries, the gatherers hack great limbs from the tree, injuring it so that in many cases it cannot survive the wound.

The mistletoe, which is found in great quantities in the markets of Washington at the Christmas time, is a parasite which fastens itself upon the branches of many species of trees. Its removal does the tree good, provided the limbs from which it springs are not injured in the cutting. The mistletoe of the Potomac river country is very much like the mistletoe of England. It is supposed that this parasite growth was used by the ancient Druids in their religious ceremonies among the ancient Britons. All kinds of superstitions are connected with the mistletoe, and many of them are traced back to the days before the Saxon occupation of John Bull's island. These superstitions were brought across the water by the early English settlers, and they are found in some parts of America in the same form in which they have existed in England for century on century.

The White House in a holiday season literally is turned into a conservatory. Washington loves flowers and every man and woman who comes here to live finds that the flower affection speedily takes its hold. The White House is supplied with flowers from a great conservatory carefully tended by men trained to floriculture. There are probably more flower shops in the capital in proportion to the population than in any other city in the United States. Almost literally they are on every corner. The demand for flowers here at the Christmas season is such that notwithstanding

the fact the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia are flooded with conservatories, the Philadelphia and New York markets are called upon to help out in the work of supplying the enormous District trade.

The Central and South Americans who come to Washington in official capacities are accustomed to outdoor flowers every day in the year in their own lands, and they simply will not consent to get along without flowers in this northern climate. Their houses resemble conservatories all through the winter months, but at the Christmas season the Spanish-American literally banks himself and his family with blossoms.

President Taft attends Christmas service at All Souls Unitarian church. Mrs. Taft is an Episcopalian, and with her children she attends St. John's church on Lafayette square, known half humorously in Washington as the Church of State. It is so called because so many of the presidents of the United States have worshipped regularly within its walls. St. John's is a small church, but it has fine music, and the Christmas service and its environments are made as beautiful as it is possible to make them.

In the official foreign colony in Washington the Christmas holidays are an especially lively and joyous season. The managers of the American branch offices of the governments of the world are ever eager to show their patriotism and loyalty by observing all holidays or ceremonial occasions just as they would be observed if they were at home in their own countries. Consequently Christmas is the occasion for many diverse and picturesque celebrations in the homes of the official foreign colony. There is scarce a household in the cosmopolitan community that has not its quota of children. Many of the young people in these foreign households are, for the time being, attending American schools and have become imbued with some of the traditions of the Yankee Christmas. Thus the yule-tide programs in many a diplomatic home at Washington presents an odd mixture of foreign customs and American innovations.

Especially is this the case in the homes of many of the diplomats from South and Central America, where there are many young people. These Pan-American juveniles exchange presents as do their American playmates and await with keen anticipation the proverbial Christmas dinner, but they also show allegiance to the customs of their native lands by attending mass at midnight on Christmas Eve, and afterward paying homage at a miniature representation of the city of Bethlehem, the most conspicuous place in which is occupied by a grotto in which are tiny figures of the Infant Jesus, and Joseph, together with the three wise men. In the homes of the Mexican diplomats there is followed a novel plan for the distribution of the Christmas presents. All the gifts are placed in a huge earthenware jar which is suspended from the ceiling and is then attacked by all the young people armed with canes. When the jar is broken the Christmas presents are precipitated to the floor and there is a mad scramble for the mysterious packages.

The handsome new home of the French Embassy at Washington will this year afford a spacious setting for a Christmas frolic that has become one of the important events of holiday week at the capital. At the German Embassy likewise there is a Christmas tree with tokens for all the young people in the Embassy circle, while the British Ambassador entertains all the members of his official staff and their families at an old-fashioned English Christmas dinner.

McNAMARAS SENTENCED

Jas. B. Sentenced for Life; John J. Gets 15 Years.

The full text of the confession by James B. McNamara, given to District Attorney Fredericks, was made public by Mr. Fredericks. It follows: "I, James B. McNamara, defendant in the case of the people, having heretofore pleaded guilty to the crime of murder, desire to make this statement of facts:

"And this is the truth. On the night of Sept. 20, 1910, at 5:45 p. m., I placed in Ink Alley, a portion of the Times building, a suitcase containing 15 sticks of 80 per cent dynamite, set to explode at 11 o'clock the next morning.

"It was my intention to injure the building and scare the owners. I did not intend to take the life of anyone, sincerely regret that these unfortunate men lost their lives. In the giving of my life would bring them back I would gladly give it. In fact, in pleading guilty to murder in the first degree, I have placed my life in the hands of the state.

(Signed.) "JAMES B. McNAMARA." The confession covers one side of an ordinary sheet of paper and was written with a fountain pen supplied by one of the attorneys. It is probably the only written statement of the case that will ever be made by the writer or his brother, John J. McNamara, who pleaded guilty to dynamiting the Llewellyn Iron Works.

John Joseph McNamara, secretary of the bridge and structural iron workers, a confessed and sentenced felon, is now with his younger brother, James Butuma McNamara, in San Quentin prison.

For 15 years John J. will serve within the same walls for his confessed part in dynamiting plots that have reached from ocean to ocean.

James B. McNamara, the brother who confessed he did the "job" his elder brother planned, and who said he set the bomb that destroyed the building of the Los Angeles Times, when 21 lives were lost, will spend the rest of his life in confinement.

The two men were sentenced by Judge Walter N. Bordwell. Led into court by sheriffs, the two men waited while a clerk was sent scurrying out to get chairs for them. The prison pallor on the face of the younger man had been displaced by a nervous flush. Nervously chewing the gum between his teeth he looked around the court room with quick catlike glances, his head drooping forward. Outside the nervous toying with his hands at a watch chain that dangled from his waistcoat, he displayed no sign of nervousness.

A striking figure was John Joseph McNamara, the elder brother, big, strong and distinguished, as he stood waiting for the day's events. Both men were dressed with extreme care. Both wore black. J. J. might have been an attorney, to judge by his appearance. He wore a high collar around which was draped a black tie. Presently the chairs were procured and the men sank into them. Elaborate precautions were taken to prevent any demonstration, or attack on any of the actors in the closing scene of the great drama. The sentence was passed in a small court room, near the jail, so that the men could be brought across a "Bridge of Sighs," and not have to be escorted through the streets. There were over a hundred deputies, bailiffs and policemen guarding the room and the corridors. At one time the room was cleared, and all who afterwards entered it, who might in any way be suspected, were searched. A heavy bar was laid across the door, so that there might be no "rushing" of the guards there.

Soo Gets Bulk of Michigan Appropriations.

Outside of the new lock at the Soo the administration does not propose to spend much money in Michigan during the next fiscal year, ending July 1, 1912. The estimates sent to congress by the secretary of the treasury ask for \$1,950,000 for the new lock. The other Michigan appropriations requested are as follows: Mackinac harbor, \$35,000; Ludington harbor, \$51,500; Manistee harbor, \$6,000; Portage Lake harbor of refuge, \$3,000; Saginaw harbor and Kalamazoo river, \$15,000; St. Joseph harbor and river, \$15,500; South Haven harbor, \$3,000; Black River, \$1,500; Clinton river, \$2,000; Menominee river, \$9,000; remodeling Lansing postoffice, \$35,000; remodeling Traverse City postoffice, \$20,000.

China's Regent Abdicates.

Prince Chun, the regent and father of the child emperor, has abdicated. His place as guardian of the throne is taken jointly by Shi Hsu, a Manchurian prince and former president of the national assembly, and Hsu Shi Chang, vice-president of the privy council.

Beef Men on Trial.

Ten millionaire Chicago packers appeared in United States district court in Chicago to stand trial before Judge Carpenter on indictments returned against them by a federal grand jury and charging them with criminal violation of the Sherman anti-trust act.

Pleas of not guilty on behalf of the indicted men were promptly entered and the long expected trial of the packers was on. It had come after an eight-year fight by the United States government officers.

Christmas tree buyers are swarming into the upper peninsula getting their stocks lined up.

Mary Scatote, of Escanaba, an Indian woman, although but 26 years old, is about to be married for the third time. She will marry Joseph Roblek, a white man.

Mrs. Henry Windsor of Rapid River shot a deer weighing 250 pounds at 150 yards. The feat is unequalled in hunting annals around Manistee.

A fire which started in the hardware store of Kaukkin & Schlegel, in Lansing, damaged the Schavey block to the extent of nearly \$27,000. The Schavey hotel, in the block, was filled with guests when the fire broke out, but managed to escape with all their belongings.

It Means Health For the Child

The careful mother, who watches closely the physical peculiarities of her children, will soon discover that the most important thing in connection with a child's constant good health is to keep the bowels regularly open. Sluggish bowels will be followed by loss of appetite, restlessness during sleep, irritability and a dozen and one similar evidences of physical disorder.

At the first sign of such disorder give the child a teaspoonful of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin at night on retiring and repeat the dose the following night if necessary—more than that will scarcely be needed. You will find that the child will recover its accustomed good spirits at once and will eat and sleep normally.

This remedy is a vast improvement over salts, cathartics, laxative waters and similar things, which are altogether too powerful for a child. The homes of Mrs. L. Grunwald, 18 Perkins St., Detroit, Mich., and Mrs. J. P. McLaughlin, Fountain, Mich., are always supplied with Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, and with them, as with thousands of others, there is no substitute for this remedy. It is really more than a laxative, for it contains superior tonic properties which help to tone and strengthen the stomach, liver and bowels so that after a brief use of it all laxatives can be dispensed with and nature will do its own work.

Anyone wishing to make a trial of this remedy before buying it in the regular way of a druggist at fifty cents a bottle, a large bottle (family size) can have a sample bottle sent to the home free of charge by simply addressing Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 201 West 12th St., Monticello, Ill. Your name and address on a postal card will do.

Husband Was Willing.

The Scot has no monopoly of domestic felicity, as many a piquant paragraph bears witness. The other day an old farmer and his wife were "doing" the sights of a provincial town, and, among other places they visited a panorama of South Africa.

The views were extremely interesting, and the couple were enjoying themselves to the full. As scene after scene passed, the woman's enthusiasm increased, and at length, turning to her husband, she exclaimed: "Oh, Sandy, this is really splendid. I could just sit here all my days."

"Ah, well, Jennie, woman," replied Sandy, to the mirth of those sitting near, "just sit you still there; I'll not grudge the saxeence."

Kidney Trouble Is Very Deceptive

Few Realize They're Affected Till Danger Point is Reached—Dr. Derby's Kidney Pills Work Wonders—Sample Free!

Kidney disease is much more common than most people imagine. Many sufferers do not know what's ailing them—until the trouble becomes serious. Some trifling affection may run into the dread diabetes, dropsy or Bright's disease before one realizes there's anything wrong with his kidneys.

Usually the most noticeable symptoms which first appear are far from the seat of the trouble, and the sufferer mistakes the nature of his ailment. Dull headaches or nervousness, for instance, he never thinks of as signs of diseased kidneys.

Even the aching back and sides, rheumatism, pains or twitching in groins or limbs, sore, inflamed muscles, he may consider indications of some other trouble. Unusually colored or cloudy urine, too frequent or too scanty urination, burning sensation, are of course readily recognized as symptoms of such disorders.

Because of the deceptive and dangerous character of these ailments, if you suspect your kidneys are diseased, lose no time in beginning treatment. The best possible remedy for you is Dr. Derby's Kidney Pills. They are quite different from anything else in the market. They act in two ways: cleanse the clogged kidneys of their poisonous impurities, strengthen them so they perform their duties normally, naturally. There's no other way to really cure kidney derangements, resultant bladder troubles and rheumatism—and permanently banish those frightful aches and pains.

Get a package of these marvelous Dr. Derby's Kidney Pills at once. 25 and 50c packages. If you want to try them first ask your druggist for a free sample package, or same will be sent direct by Derby Medicine Co., Eaton Rapids, Mich.

A Born Quibbler.

"Didn't I tell you not to shoot any quail on this place?"

"Yassah," replied Uncle Rasberry. "You done told me an' I done heard you. Dis ain't no quail. Dis is a partridge."

It isn't until a man reaches the age of discretion that he discovers he can have a good time without suffering for it the next morning.

Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the

Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fitch* In Use For Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

When you hear two men talking so loudly that they can be heard in the next block, they are talking about something they know nothing about.

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Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery

Being made without alcohol, this "Medical Discovery" helps the stomach to assimilate the food, thereby curing dyspepsia. It is especially adapted to diseases attended with excessive tissue waste, notably in convalescence from various fevers, for thin-blooded people and those who are always "catching cold." Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent on receipt of 31 one-cent stamps for the French cloth-bound book of 1008 pages. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, No. 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

HAD DONE HER PART.



"What are you goin' to give at the preacher's donation party, Mandy?" "Lands sake! Nuthin'. Why, I give the preacher a real store necktie that cost 10 cents at his donation party only three years ago!"

The Difference.

"John M. Harlan," said a Chicago lawyer, in a eulogy of the late Supreme court justice, "had a way of pointing an observation with a story. Once he wanted to rebuke a man for exaggeration, so he said he was as bad as a Pittsburgh millionaire who was being interviewed by a New York reporter.

"Where, sir, were you born?" the reporter, as he sharpened his pencil, asked.

"I was born in Pittsburgh," said the millionaire.

"And when did you first—er—see the light of day?"

"When I was nine," the millionaire replied. "My people then moved to Philadelphia."

Decidedly Novel.

Ella—It was a novel proposal. Stella—What did he say? Ella—That he begged the proud privilege of getting up mornings to build the fire for me.

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